

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/981,219

Examiner

Kimberly D. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LINTON ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed February 17, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15,16,26 and 97-102.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/17/06, 3/17/06, 4/18/06, 4/21/06, 5/12/06, 5/19/06, 6/22/06.
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgment is made of Request for Continued Examination filed February 17, 2006.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Acknowledgment is made of Information Disclosure Statements filed February 17, 2006, March 17, 2006, April 18, 2006, April 21, 2006, May 12, 2006, May 19, 2006 and June 22, 2006, which have been considered by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15-16, 26, and 97-102 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The record of prior art fails to teach a method of distributing a plurality of products from a cabinet having a door, the method comprising: fitting each product with a radio frequency identification tag; positioning the plurality of products in the cabinet; sensing opening and closing of the cabinet door; scanning the plurality of products in the cabinet upon sensing closing of the cabinet door to determine the number and type of products in the cabinet; generating a message based on the number and type of products in the cabinet; transmitting the message to a server; maintaining an inventory in the server based on the message; reading a code on a user badge; acknowledging having read the user badge; determining the authenticity of the code read from the user badge; opening the cabinet if the code read from the user badge is authentic; and performing a self-updating boot up procedure for a controller associated with the cabinet, the procedure comprising: (a) sending a message querying a most recent software version number; (b) comparing a software version number currently used to the most recent software version

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number; (c) downloading software having the most recent software version number if the currently used software version number and the most recent software version number differ when compared; (d) writing the downloaded software to memory associated with the controller; and (e) booting the downloaded software by the controller.

Although, de Prins teaches a method of distributing a plurality of products from a lock cabinet having a door, the method comprising: positioning the plurality of products cabinet; sensing opening and closing of the cabinet door; scanning the plurality of products in the cabinet upon sensing closing of the cabinet door to determine the number and type of products in the cabinet; generating a message based on the number and type of products in the cabinet; transmitting the message/data to a server; and maintaining a inventory in the server based on the message. However, de Prins fails to teach or fairly suggest the steps of each product is fitted with a radio frequency identification tag; reading a code on a user badge; acknowledging having read the user badge; determining the authenticity of the code read from the user badge; and opening the cabinet if the code read from the user badge is authentic, wherein the server uses a self-updating boot up procedure, the procedure comprising: (a) receiving a message containing a most recent software version number; (b) comparing a software version number currently used to the most recent software version number; (c) downloading the most recent software version if versions differ when compared; (d) writing the downloaded software to memory; and (e) booting the downloaded software.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2402. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KDN
July 12, 2006